Fellowship In Prayer

"For a world united in prayer"

O God, unite Thy children in one common bond.
Grant, in these days when hatreds burst in flaming wrath,
That those who bear Thy name,
Shall be as Ministers of Light.

Volume 1 Summer 1950 Number 7

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FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER
(Incorporated)
22 East 29th Street
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Volume I Summer 1950 Number 7

THE "FOLDED HANDS"

Quite well do many allude to Durer's Masterpiece as "Praying Hands." That is what is expressed and what Durer wished to convey. The note on the back page tells the story and is truly significant of life itself—for life could not continue without one person sacrificing for another. It is the essence of true living.

The painting, "Folded Hands," seems particularly appropriate for the use of Fellowship In Prayer and we feel like adopting this as a mark of distinction for our publication. We were especially fortunate in securing a sufficient quantity for this issue.

The design of "The Lord's Prayer" on the June number brought widespread approbation and a second run was required.

We strongly urge the use of The Lord's Prayer to the believer of any faith as no true believer in God can take exception to its application.

LET US TRY IT

For half a century, man has achieved astonishing advancements in science and technology, in the conquest of time and space, and in the mastery of his material environment. Some of his successes in obtaining prosperity and comfort have reached far beyond the dreams of his forefathers.

He has, however, given comparatively less and less time and attention to the cultivation of his moral and spiritual heritages. Not only is the goal of peace and harmony as far away as ever, but also the lack of such has brought about increasingly larger and larger disasters.

Within this half century, two world wars have already been fought; and a third one is now being threatened. Admirable ingenuity of the physical and the social sciences has been applied to the efforts for securing victory and peace. But the fruit of victory is almost as bitter as that of defeat, and the machinery of peace is often so blocked by contending passions and prejudices as to be inoperative.

Since the shortcomings of our purely human efforts are so obvious, is it not time that we should implore God to lead us? Religions may differ in theology, organization, and polity. But they share in the common goal of peace and harmony for the individual believer and for humanity as a whole,--and the interdependence of the two has been made daily clearer by the myriad contacts and conflicts that are affecting the world community together. They share in the same predicament in which, while their adherents hesitate, disagree, or are bewildered, the forces of inundating materialism carry them to greater and greater disasters.

All religious systems, however, lay almost the same stress on the importance of prayer, and prayer, in almost all of them, means almost the same thing--the assurance that the believer's humility and supplication will be met with divine love and guidance. Though we may

pray in different places and with different languages, we may rest assured that, since the ultimate source of love and guidance is one and no other, we will not be led into hatred and conflicting errors. Herein must lie the straight and sure path to the goal of peace and harmony. PRAYER, therefore, is worth trying. LET US TRY IT!

— William Hung.

(We welcome this challenging message from the President of Fellowship In Prayer. Dr. William Hung, well known in religious and educational circles, both in America and the Orient, was graduated from Ohio Wesleyan and later received degrees of D. D. and L.L. D. therefrom. For many years, he was Professor of History at Yenching University, Peiping, China and also Director of Research Institute of Arts & Letters in the Graduate School. Born of Confucian parents, Dr. Hung and his mother turned to Christianity, and he brings to the Fellowship a broad experience in religion. His internment during World War II developed characteristics which stamp him as one highly capable of coping with extreme situations, even of an international character. Fellowship In Prayer is fortunate in having Dr. Hung on its Board.)

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"Oh, brother man! fold to thy heart thy brother;

Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;

To worship rightly is to love each other,

Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

— J. G. Whittier."

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Too many people these days have acquired a leaning habit. Possibly, it is the natural result of the "Let George Do It" age, but regardless of origin, it is with us.

The sales girl sniffs and shrugs shoulders at the customer, the bus driver insults the public, the Post Office employee tells you to "Write your Congressman." We look to the government for old age pension, social security and sundry relief measures, while religion is largely left to the professional leader. America was not built that way!

However, a good example of wholesale and personal responsibility has been shown New Yorkers in the International Conclave of "Jehovah's Witnesses" held at the Yankee Stadium. Approximately 75,000 followers came from all over the world, the last meetings drawing enough local people to swell the total to the largest gathering of its kind ever held in the area. Every last detail, even to the cleaning of the Stadium, was attended to with meticulous efficiency.

One does not need to be a believer in this sect to recognize some outstanding characteristics which might well be emulated by the God-fearing people of any faith. Outstanding is that of p e r s o n a l r e s p o n s i b i l i t y wherein practically every attendant must have shared in order to achieve the results accomplished. The building of a tented city in New Jersey, the erection of massive mess halls under canvas near the Stadium, the orderly conduct of the crowds in meetings and about this great metropolitan city, all bespeak of adherence to personal regulations and details.

It cannot be said too strongly that similar application to individual responsibility in other faiths in the world would achieve wonders. Too many of us do not feel a sense of responsibility toward our own faith to let it influence our conduct toward our fellow men, to say nothing of the giving of our personal selves for our God.

When a similar fervor actuates the followers of other faiths, we may begin to expect great things for God.

It takes more than a perfunctory attention to the formalities of religion to make a new world, - for that is what must be done. New in thinking, new in living, new in worshiping. Let none of us think we can solve today's problems by ordinary routine means. It will take heroic self discipline and the practice of the highest ideals of every religion.

* * * * *

A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

It is a source of deep joy and gratitude to note the great awakening (SPIRITUAL) and the tremendous wave of prayer-consciousness which is spreading over all the earth and particularly here in America. We hear it from all sides; from many who, up until recently, have been so deeply buried under their great load of materiality, they lost all sense of THE REAL; they found themselves groping, aimlessly, around in the darkness searching for "THE LIGHT" that, in THE LIGHT they might find TRUTH, that, through TRUTH they might find FREEDOM for it is written "and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." "It is always darkest just before the dawn" and so man turns back, faces and walks in THE LIGHT and in THE LIGHT he gets himself back into harmony with DIVINITY and henceforth lives life in its glorious fulness by becoming one with it. Through repentance and prayer man is redeemed and it is only through the redemption of the individual that the world can be redeemed and that "PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD-WILL TOWARD MEN" can become a glorious reality. The hope of the world lies in ASPIRATION, MEDITATION, SUPPLICATION AND APPLICATION of the individual with simple, perfect, unfaltering faith in God. No power can prevail against this armour.

-- Harry Halsey Starrett.

YOU MUST HELP

There are so many indications that a spiritual resurgence is in the making that it seems timely to urge fullest cooperation of ALL who receive "Fellowship In Prayer."

Would that we were able to blazon this word across the world for, with United Prayer among all consecrated believers in God, a spiritual renaissance would be with us, which would shake the foundations of the world. Somehow this MUST be done!

It behooves each one of us, who reads these words, to do something about it. We list herewith things which may be done to prepare ourselves, as well as help in this growing change:

1. Grace before meals wherever you eat. It may be in silence with bowed head, but thank God anyway.

2. Institute a spiritual period each day in your own life for prayer and religious thought. Let God come into our soul.

3. Talk with your friends and acquaintances in positive terms concerning a religious revival.

4. When occasion offers, join in a prayer group, or institute one yourself if it means but two or three praying together. If done sincerely, it will grow.

5. Attend worship in your own religious organization and pray earnestly God's spirit to be present.

6. Make God a partner in your daily activities.

7. Send us names of those people whom you think would be interested in helping, no matter where they are.

* * * * *

WILLIAM ROSE BENET

The following three pages are devoted to a litany in verse by William Rose Benet, which represented the Benet 1949 Christmas Greeting. It appears here through the generous permission of Mrs. Benet as he passed away suddenly in New York on May 4, 1950.

William Rose Benet was a noted poet, author, teacher, lecturer and writer, having won the Pulitzer Prize in 1942 for "The Dust Which is God," an autobiographical verse narrative. He was a prolific writer of poetry and his editorial work was of the highest order.

Mr. Benet's "Address To Archeus" recognizes a universal God from the beginning of time and sees the development of materialism without comparable spiritual growth. The closing is an appeal for forgiveness and the descent of the Holy Spirit as the Human Race prays, "people by people and nation after nation."

A universal prayer to one God!

We had recognized the similarity of thought with that fundamental in Fellowship In Prayer and negotiations had been instituted whereby we might be able to use this poem when Mr. Benet's untimely death was announced.

A few days later, we were privileged to be among those who paid final tribute to a great thinker and a great man, as his funeral was held in the Little Church Around The Corner directly across the street from our office.

After noting some of his experiences and ideas in "Twentieth Century Authors" Mr. Benet said this of himself:

> "All the above does not make him a good writer, but it makes him a fairly good average example of a human being."

* * * * *

ADDRESS TO ARCHEUS

Great moving spirit of universe beyond universe,
and of incessant life and motion within the tiniest cell
determiner of all pattern, principle, and variety
of our abundant life;
guardian of time, space, eternity;
friend and counselor in the human heart;
light in the mind of man;
apocalypse of creation;
called of our fathers Amen-Ra, Bel-Merodach, Ahura Mazda
Allah, Brahma, Yu Huang, Jessis, Odin, Zeus, Jupiter,
Jehovah and God--
Thou which art sun and seed, sower and sown,
in the galaxy and in the electron,
the mystery of birth, the mystery of life,
the mystery of death--
We call upon Thee to hear us!

Us who, like brigands in a temple,
have rent from top to bottom the veil
behind the high altar of life
to look upon our own blinding annihilation,
or, as it may be, to hear the heavy pulse-beat
of new worlds in being;
who in our inexorable search for life's every secret
have flattered the mock majesty of our human thought;
to make of miracle toys for the merchant,
to bridle the lightning that the few may feast,
to yoke the thunder for plunder and war;
who, in prayer side-glancing in secret,
transgress flagrantly in open day;
who, seeing the naked radiance of truth,
crucify her in the market place;
who are quick to accuse, to excuse, alert to threaten,
loud to deny,
in the meanwhile enslaving ourselves and others,
forsaking reason in the argument of the self-righteous;
who bow to power saying,
"How great our builded State, how majestic is Mammon,

How marvelous are the ways of Rimmon,
How league-long our walls, our ramparts how high,
How well-prepared our defense!"
Being the while lacking utterly in any defense of the spirit,
any ramparts of the soul,
any power from everlasting, any resource in Thee;
Being the while braggart in the denial of the eternal daily miracle
in the midst of which we find ourselves living and breathing;
perverting all of its manifestations to folly,
to envy, to contention, to calculated murder.
For these things, anima mundi, great spirit of the Universe,
should we ask that Thou stoop and commend us?

Should we ask Thee to spare us who spare not;
to keep troth with us who keep no troth with each other;
to comprehend us who are lacking in comprehension
while surrounded on every side and at every turning
with guides to comprehension?
Us who embark upon pinions more rapid than light
to fill infinity with voyage;
who cleverly entrap all sound from the air
till Carchemish talks from Time's beginning
to cities of the West,
and the tongues known in Babel, that bewildered tower;
are heard again in our world's councils--
Yet who find it impossible to solve the plainest problem
of world equity or amity,
or to accomplish aught save resounding speeches and shibboleths--
How shouldst Thou spare us,
how comprehend us,
how even scorn!

Yet hear us who stand on the brink of the last precipice
of our fantastic misadventure--
hear our prayer, let our cry come unto Thee!

Our transgressions are as a dark mountain,
our faith is a place of skulls,
our treachery writhes in pallid compounds
of the starving, the brutalized, the insane, the slain.
But not in our faith, as it was once;
not in our hope, as it is still;
not in our desire to seek the highest
nor in our search for abundant life
are our transgressions sealed.
They are in the turning back to the terrors of the clay,
retrogression to animal instinct,
wooing of oppression and despair,
relapse into the slime of ages
out of which we were brought to stand erect
and to see the light.
Having survived one dark fanatic impulse
to plunge back into bloody and feral darkness,
shall we now give effect to another?
Having searched our souls in desperate anguish,
in the depth of loss, in the hour of horror and affright,
shall we call again upon our own destruction to cover us?

Hear us, aid us then, great living and indwelling spirit
of Time and Eternity!
Shall we always remain too feeble in mind, will, and spiritual sinew
to mould our own destiny?
In the night of our defeat,
in the day of our misdoing,
we beseech Thee.
As Thou wert, in the ages gone, a light in great darkness,
a rising wind of salvation
driving before it the thunderheads of despair;
and in the days of our forefathers
a testimony of stars above the desert land;
we, the Human Race, lift up our voice not singly
but people by people and nation after nation,
crying, "Descend upon us!
Breathe into us that superhuman power
which is not as any power known to Man!

Holy spirit of this our Pentecost,
be Thou heard of us,
be Thou known to us,
dwell in us at last!"

By-- William Rose Benet.

(In deep humility let these words sink into our souls as we think of our sins of omission and commission as individuals and as members of "The Human Race.")

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A CALL TO PRAYER

"Let us put by some hour of every day
For holy things! --Whether it be when dawn
Peers through the window pane, or when the noon
Flames, like a burnished topaz, in the vault.
Or when the thrush pours in the ear of eve
Its plaintive monody: Some little hour
Wherein to hold rapt converse with the soul,
From sordidness and self a sanctuary,
Swept by the winnowing of unseen wings,
And touched by the White Light Ineffable."

-- Clinton Scollard.

PRAYER

O God, our Father, in our desire to know the truth and seek its application in our lives, we are not unmindful that others, men of different races and beliefs, are striving toward the same end. May Thy Spirit assist us all, that together we may achieve the high goal of human brotherhood that is in accord with Thy holy will.

* * * * * *

WORD FROM ACROSS THE LAND

Reports have been requested from Fellowship In Prayer groups across the country and some have been received. They show evidence of a growing tide of spiritual power, and would that we could print all of them at this time. Since space is limited, however, it seems best to publish parts of an address which was given at the Marin County (Calif.) July meeting. This gives an excellent idea as to how one, outside of the office, views the situation. The address, in part, follows:

"The trend today is to unite nationally against a common enemy. We fly the flag of the United Nations in this unsought war of ours, and that is inspiring. But all believers too--E pluribus unum--of many one--should also stand up and be counted under a flag of United Religions.

"Fellowship In Prayer" embraces the idea on which such a spiritual movement could be built. Whatever our personal faith--and in our Fellowship we do not meddle with those--the strength of our convictions can only be intensified if we recognize that our believing neighbor stands on the same foundations as we do,--the principles of brotherly love and mercy, of justice and honesty.

"All great religions set spiritual values above everything else. The Golden Rule, as expressed in their own words, is the basis of the ten Great Religions, and with prayer as the means of communication with God.

"Since it is precisely these things, The Golden Rule and faith in God, which our enemies would destroy, some sort of united religious front must prevail if we believers are to survive the tremendous assault of inhumanity and anti-religion. For this we might prepare by emphasizing our similarities, instead of emphasizing our differences. Chinese Christians have an axiom: "Agree to differ, but resolve to love." Differing as we do, faith from faith, and sect from sect, is there any point on which we can meet in harmony? Yes--and it is the core of the challenge,

we can pray together. But can we? We, whose personal beliefs, whose most sacred conceptions of salvation, whose dearest rituals and forms of prayer differ so widely--can we join together, in the face of impending doom--to pray to our common Father for the salvation of our spiritual heritage?

"Herein lies the challenge to new thinking--can we, all who believe in the Creator--pray together for our common good? It is a revolutionary idea to many, and to others as yet impossible. But--both in silent meditation and in spoken words--we have proved that it can be done. In brotherhood and in recognition of the Fatherhood of God, we have proved it at each of our meetings, these past six months. And in humility and thankfulness, we here acknowledge the quickened sense of the spiritual value of prayer which it has brought into our lives.

"If this be true in our group, what might it not mean if ALL believers, all who call themselves Christians, Hebrews and Moslems, together with the others from the uttermost ends of the earth, should rise up, standing shoulder to shoulder, and declare: "Of many beliefs, still we are one and invincible in allegiance to God."

"This is the vision of our Fellowship In Prayer. That all believers everywhere should unite in saying: "We are the children of LIGHT--and against us the powers of darkness cannot prevail!"

"A great vision. And we say: "Human nature can never be like that," for it is always we who put the shackles on God. Matters beyond our comprehension, we assume to be impossible to Him. But are they? God, who made the universe and the atom, is not limited in power--it is WE who circumscribe belief!

"And so, it all comes back to us--poor, limited creatures that we are. Yet each with some spark of the divine fire within. Can we not make our lives the transmission lines for God's triumphant power? "Turn thou us, O Lord, and so shall we be turned. And let not thine heritage be put to confusion."

"It rests with us, the accomplishment of that vision

of the united sons of God. One by one, each in his own way, we must pray and work for the common goal. NOW--we must pray and work now, for the time is shortening and next year, some day, will not do. Pray constantly that the spirit of God may enter into your life, and through you to another, and through them to others, until we, the Human Race lift up our voices not singly, but people by people, nation after nation. Yes, and religion after religion. That all men may see the glory of the Father, and dwell together in Brotherhood--and peace."

The August meeting of the Marin County Fellowship was well attended - the largest yet held - the special speaker being Dr. John Wick Bowman of the San Francisco Theological Seminary whose topic was, "The Sources of Courage for These Times."

So successful was this meeting that there have been a number of requests for its repetition at an evening hour when opportunity will be afforded a larger number to attend.

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B O O K S

STEPPING STONES TO FREEDOM - By Harry Halsey Starrett (Willing Publishing Co., P.O. Box 51, San Gabriel, Calif. 108 pp $2.50).
A deeply spiritual book for followers of any faith, but particularly for the Christian. The short chapters make it a handy book for easy reading and they are packed full of spiritual wisdom for daily living. It is most inspiring.

WORLD FAITH - By Ruth Cranston
(Harper & Bros. - 193 pp $3.00).
If one seeks to know more of the religions of the world other than his own, this book is an up-to-date answer. Embracing 7 religions, it deals with each historically and practically, bringing out similarities as well as differences--the sum total being a vast store of knowledge which will bear re-reading and detailed study.

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TOPICS OF INTEREST

The Catholic War Veterans on August 13 asked President Truman to proclaim a day of public and private prayer.

In the Second Act of "Macbeth" MacDuff says:
"Confusion now hath made his masterpiece."
Shakespeare looked out on a relatively small horizon, but MacDuff's remark might well fit today's world situation.

At long last, word has been received from India regarding Fellowship In Prayer. It remains to be seen what results will be achieved. However, it is obvious that much personal work must be done.

Preaching at the All Souls Unitarian Church recently, Rev. Payson Miller of Hartford said of prayer:
"It is a constant necessity and a daily discipline. You retire to the point where you can forget yourself and see life whole."

The General Federation of Women's Clubs will conduct a nation-wide prayer campaign. Its president, in making the announcement on August 13th said:

"As a nation dedicated to belief in God and freedom for all mankind, we believe in the power of prayer."

All local clubs have been urged to pray.

At the organizational meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fellowship In Prayer on June 27th, the following officers were elected:

President	- William Hung
Vice President	- Sydney D. Maddock
Treasurer	- Joseph E. Thompson
Secretary	- Kathryn G. Brown
Executive Secretary and Assistant Treasurer	- Carl A. Evans

TOPICS OF INTEREST (Cont'd)

"Tiny Nepal Claims Two Living Dieties," - so announced THE NEW YORK TIMES, August 6th.
They are: Hindu King Tribhubana and the Grand Lama of Buddhnath who claims to be an authentic "Living Buddha." It is said, however, that the Buddhistic creed of the "Middle Way" has become so intertwined with Hinduism that the two are indistinguishable and that there are shrines sacred to both in Nepal.

Speaking to delegates representing fifteen nations at the Eighth International Congress of Administrative Sciences on August 5, 1950, Pope Pius XII listed the "right to honor and good reputation" alongside "right and freedom to worship the true God," and the original right of parents over their children and their education as the fundamental rights of man that the state had the duty to respect. This was directly alluding to certain attacks made by the iron curtain countries.

The rising spiritual tide can give some credit to the large number of organizations, aside from regular religious bodies, calling upon members to pray. The number of American Legion bodies is far above 1500 now and steadily growing. Breakfast clubs are increasing and here and there religious organizations are vigorously stressing prayer. It was recently reported that a commercial corporation meeting was opened with prayer, - something previously never done in this organization.

We cordially invite all God-fearing people to cooperate with FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER.
Contributions toward furthering the program will be gratefully received and promptly acknowledged.

Additional copies of this publication will be furnished at 5¢ per copy.

oooOooo

HYMN OF PATRIOTISM FOR ALL CREEDS

by

M. Willard Lampe

Tune, "America"

The thought is based on Micah 6:8

God of our history,
Our fathers worshipped Thee
With one accord.
They were from many lands,
Of many creeds and clans,
But Thee, with lifted hands,
They all adored!

God of the present hour,
Send forth Thy saving power
In this our day:
Grant us the grace to see,
In our diversity,
Thy bond of unity--
Father, we pray.

Blend Thou our liberty
With true fraternity
The World around,
Till every land be free
To trust not only Thee
But all humanity,
And peace abound.

God of our destiny,
Be this old litany
Our staff and rod:
"Do justly" while we may,
"Love mercy" day by day,
"Walk humbly" all the way
With Thee our God!

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When Albrecht Dürer (from whose "Folded Hands" the cover design was adapted) was a struggling artist a friend of his who also aspired to be an artist, made an agreement with him he would do manual labor to earn their living while Dürer studied and painted. Later, it planned, he should have his turn to paint. But when success came to Dürer his friend's hands become so twisted and stiff that he could no longer paint. One day, seeing his friend's work-hands in prayer, Dürer thought, "I can never give back the lost skill of those hands, but I show my feeling of love and gratitude by painting his hands as they are now, folded in praye show my appreciation of a noble and unselfish character."

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